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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6734
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RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAA/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 9488
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 1850
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 7637
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 0068
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 3228
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TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
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CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - RUSSIA AND
SYRIA-LEBANON RELATIONS

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Front-page items on Thursday morning included the death of former Chinese Communist Party leader Hua Guofeng on Wednesday in Beijing.

¶2. "Russia's Continued Military Presence Should Not Be Allowed" The moderate Yomiuri editorialized (8/21): "Does the Russian military really intend to pull out of Georgia? Our doubts are fueled by a gap between Russia's words and actions.... The international community will not go along with Russia's move to crush a democratic state through brute military force. This move is unacceptable in particular to the U.S., which has held up Georgia as a model of democratization. There is no need for the U.S and Europe to unnecessarily increase military tensions, but they need to continue to take a clear position on what is impermissible for them."

¶3. "Use Normalization to Lead to Middle East Peace" The liberal Asahi contended in an editorial (8/21): "Syria and Lebanon agreed last week to establish diplomatic relations. Following decades of violence, including sectarian conflict, assassinations, and terrorism, we welcome this move as a small but important first step.... We hope that a change in relations between Syria and Lebanon will be used to jumpstart the Middle East peace process."

SCHIEFFER